

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5356

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7890

FROM US DEL LOS

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM FROM AMB STEVENSON AND
PROFESSOR MOORE. PASS: D/LOS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION FUNDS

REF: STATE 174614

1. WE EARNESTLY REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION ON REPRESENTATION FUNDS CITED IN REFTEL. PRESENT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IS EXHAUSTED AND SEVERAL DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE OUT OF POCKET FOR ESSENTIAL EXPENDITURES. CLOSE CONTACT WITH RANKING MEMBERS OF KEY DELEGATIONS DURING REMAINING WEEKS IS CRUCIAL TO MAINTENANCE OF US LEADERSHIP AT CONFERENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR LOS OBJECTIVES. BECAUSE OF BUSY CONF SCHEDULE PERSONAL INVITATIONS TO KEY DELEGATES TO DISCUSS ISSUES AT LUNCHEONS OR DINNERS CONTINUES TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROMOTING US POSITIONS AND RECEIVING INFORMATION ON GROUP POSITIONS. THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE SO ESSENTIAL THAT WE, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO HOLD THEM AT PERSONAL EXPENSE IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING. WE ARE SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

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2. THE CARACAS CONFERENCE HAS 147 STATES REPRESENTED,

MANY WITH NEW AND HIGH RANKING MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN AT SEABED COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN THE PAST AND ARE THEREFORE UNKNOWN TO US. WE MUST ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH THEM NOW TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS HERE, DURING THE INTER-SESSIONS, AND AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE. FURTHER, AT THIS CONFERENCE WE HAVE HAD THE ADDED EXPENSES INVOLVED WITH ARRANGING SUITABLE FUNCTIONS FOR FOUR SENATORS AND NUMEROUS CONGRESSIONAL STAFF TO ENSURE THAT THEY MET A CROSS SECTION OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITIONS AND THE CHALLENGE FACED BY THE US DELEGATION, AND TO ACQUAINT FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WITH US CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS IN WHICH THEY ARE MOST INTERESTED. (THESE EXPENDITURES ALONE TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF CURRENT FUNDS). ALSO, SPECIAL TEAMS FROM OUR DELEGATION MEET ON REGULAR BASIS AT INFORMAL WORKING SUPPERS MOST OF WHICH ARE HOSTED IN ROTATION BY DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING. WE MUST TAKE OUR TURN AND HAVE ALREADY HOSTED OVER A DOZEN SUCH "SANDWICH SESSIONS" DURING THIS CONFERENCE. WE ALSO HAVE WEEKLY LUNCHEONS OF GROUP OF FIVE (US, UK, USSR, FRANCE AND JAPAN), CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN. WE HAVE HOSTED THESE LUNCHEONS ONCE AND ARE HOSTING AGAIN TODAY IN ORDINARY ROTATION.

3. IT IS COSTLY TO FULFILL REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS IN CARACAS DUE TO HIGH PRICES BUT EXPENDITURES HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONTROLLED TO ENSURE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FOR THE US. WE MUST CONTINUE ESSENTIAL CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN DELEGATES DURING THE REMAINING WEEKS OF THIS CONFERENCE AND THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WILL SUPPORT THESE NECESSARY ACTIVITIES OR WHETHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WILL DO SO AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.
STEVENSON

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